

The Louisville Historian

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"PROM" – TODAY AND YESTERYEAR

The month of May is "Prom" time for many schools. Prom night is the last school party before graduation... a night for our young men and women to celebrate the end of the school year and for the seniors to have a last "hurrah" before going out into the world to make their impression on society.

Do you remember your "prom" years ago at Louisville High School? Back "then" the prom included all students of the Jr. Sr. High School. The junior class "hosted" the prom to honor the graduating seniors. Preparations for the prom included decorating the gymnasium in a "theme" decided by the junior class, locating a band to provide dance music, planning a dinner menu for prom attendees. Ladies from the Methodist Church, Catholic Church or Mothers – depending on whose turn it happened to be – prepared the dinner. Decorating the gym involved many hours of hard work. Everything was hand made with whatever materials were available, unlike today, supplies for every imaginable party theme are available. Even though it was a lot of hard work, it was fun and most rewarding to see the end result. The biggest challenge was trying to keep the "theme" a secret from the seniors.

When the "big" night finally arrived, girls "decked" out in gowns that were home made or borrowed from an older sister or a friend and in some cases, a store "bought" gown if the family could afford it. The boys wore suits or a jacket and "dress" slacks, also usually handed down from an older brother or friend or a "store" bought outfit if the family could afford it. The few students fortunate enough to own a car, jammed several couples in their cars for a ride to the prom; others had to walk in all their "finery".

Parents gathered in the balcony of the gym to watch their sons and daughters with their dates, dancing and having a good time. They also eagerly waited for the crowning of the King and Queen, hoping their son or daughter would be chosen for the honor or at least be chosen as an attendant.

Prom today....so different! Students have to buy tickets to attend. The freshmen and sophomores are not allowed to attend unless invited by a junior or senior. With the population of most high schools today, their gymnasiums could not accommodate the large attendance on prom night so proms are generally held in a hotel ballroom, a university ballroom or other facility catering to large gatherings. The young women purchase gowns fit for a princess. They go to a salon to have their hair and nails done to perfection. They purchase a special new outfit for the after prom party and in some cases a special dress for the dinner at an expensive restaurant. The young men rent a tuxedo with all the accessories. A special corsage is ordered and reservations at a fine restaurant are made. They polish their cars or borrow a nice luxury car from a relative. If they really want to go in style, a group will hire a limo for the evening with a price tag averaging \$500.00. The couples go to the expensive restaurant, have dinner, and then proceed to the site of the prom. After prom, many couples go to an all night party hosted and chaperoned by parents. The students who do not attend the prom are also invited to the all night party. Refreshments and entertainment are provided and once the students arrive they are not allowed to leave the premises. This event was established in recent years with the hope of preventing students from drinking and driving, thereby possible avoiding any tragic accidents. It has been a tremendous success, thanks to the hard work of parents and friends.

For "today's" prom, parents can expect to spend between \$300.00 and \$500.00, much, much more than yesteryear's prom. Whether it be "today" or "yesteryear" or all the years in between, it isn't the cost that matters but the memories we can cherish and hold dear in our hearts and minds.

To the students of the year 2003....have a wonderful, memorable, and safe prom night.

*Contributed by Historical Commission
Member Aline Steinbaugh*

JUNIOR-SENIOR PROM

APRIL 28, 1945

Surely the most gala affair of each year is the Junior-Senior Prom. The Juniors presented their Prom on April 28, 1945. A Western Theme was carried throughout the affair. Following the dinner, which consisted of Iced Juice, Jelly, Relishes, Baked Ham, Parsley, Riced Potatoes, Kernel Corn, Spring Salad, Rolls, Vanilla Ice Cream, Snow Cake, and Coffee, was a musical program. Songs were presented by a quartet of Audrey Barbiero, Betty Lou Rosser, Phyllis Nesbit, and Annetta Del Pizzo. Following was a piano solo by Dolores Lasnik and a vocal solo by Annetta Del Pizzo. Speeches were given by Marian Roman, Dorothy Anne La Salle, George Tovado, Robert Mayhoffer, Mr. N. C. Dixon, Betty Lou Rosser, and Mr. S. M. Barbiero. Decorations were fitted in with the theme.

From *The Cargo* - 1945 and 1947 Senior Yearbooks of Louisville High School

JUNIOR-SENIOR PROM

MAY 10, 1947

The Junior-Senior Prom was held on May 10, in the High School gymnasium. The Gym was beautifully decorated, following the theme of a romantic garden. In the center was a wishing well covered with flowers, and around the sides of the Gym was a white picket fence and arbors also covered with flowers. The gay flowers were exactly like a beautiful summer day. A delightful banquet was served to the Juniors, Seniors, Faculty, and School Board members. The menu consisted of Tomato Juice (poppy tears), Baked Chicken (tiger lilies), Potatoes (night shade), Kernel Corn (garden berries), fruit salad (moonlight and roses), Coffee (murky pool), and Sweet and Dill Pickles (gremlins). During the banquet, Beverly Rosenbaum and Peggy Callahan sang solos. The music for the dance was provided by Jimmy Keen and his Orchestra. The girls triple trio sang two selections and Verla Thirlaway sang a solo during intermission. The high light of the evening was the crowning of the Prom Queen. Stella Ray was chosen for this honor and she looked lovely on her throne of flowers.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Seniors, do you realize there are only a few more weeks to be students in high school and to spend time with your teachers and classmates? As our high school life draws to a close, we begin to look back over our high school days. We will always cherish and hold dear to our hearts the memories of the days spent at Louisville High. The friends and contacts we have made while in high school, as well as the subjects taught, have proven very valuable to us. We will remember the old school where we spent the greater percent of our high school days along with the new high school as its first graduating class.

From *The Lookout*, *Louisville High School newspaper*, May 10, 1940.

SHARE THE GIFT OF HISTORY

Share the gift of history by sharing the gift of membership in the Louisville Historical Society. Your gift will be remembered throughout the year. A yearly membership is \$15 for an individual, \$25 for a family, and \$100 for a business. Membership means receiving our newsletters and an invitation to our Annual Historical Society Meeting. It also means helping to ensure the preservation of Louisville's unique history and cultural character.

Visit our web site at www.ci.louisville.co.us/museum.htm for a membership form or call the museum at 303-665-9048. You may also write to us at Louisville Historical Museum, 749 Main Street, Louisville, Colorado, 80027. Please remember to include your name, address, and telephone number as well as the name, address, and telephone number of the person(s) to whom you wish to give the gift of membership. We accept cash or checks. Please make checks payable to Louisville Historical Society.

THE MUSEUM CORNER

CAROL GLEESON

MUSEUM COORDINATOR

Springtime invites renewal. At the Louisville Historical Museum, exhibits in the Miner's House and in Jacoe's Store have been renewed to celebrate springtime. Spring hats, flowers, pastel linens, and U.S. Navy white uniforms have been recently displayed. A new exhibit on Louisville's businesses has been designed to highlight restaurants, saloons, and general merchandise stores from the early 1900s. Museum staff and volunteers have been busy with "spring cleaning" chores to brighten up each room in the museum. Please join us in celebrating spring with a visit to the museum and a walk along Main Street.

In keeping with the museum's mission to educate children and adults about Louisville's history, museum staff and Historical Commission members have been busy with tours and presentations. Local scout troops and members of the Ghost Town Club of Colorado are examples of organizations that recently toured the museum. Don Ross, Chairperson of the Louisville Historical Commission, participated in a History Day at

Naropa University in Boulder by presenting a lecture on coal mining in Louisville. Historic photographs in the museum's collection also educate the public by providing a peek into Louisville's past. King Soopers Grocery Store on South Boulder Road recently highlighted Louisville's history by displaying four large historic photographs of Louisville along the south wall of the store. Whether providing tours or historic photographs, the museum staff and volunteers are eager to share Louisville's unique history.

The Louisville Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting was held Wednesday, May 14. Jim Hutchison, former co-director of the Lafayette Miners Museum, was our guest speaker. Mr. Hutchison presented a slide lecture on Colorado's northern coal field. We were very happy to see many of you at the meeting.

In closing, I want to recognize the special efforts of volunteers who contribute their time and talents to preserve and interpret Louisville's history. Special thanks are extended to Betty Buffo, Bill Buffo, Don Buffo, Barbara Gould, Brenda Burgess, Cyndi Benson, Melanie Muckle, and Dawn Shenton-Schenk who have all volunteered their time in 2003.

DONATIONS

The Louisville Historical Museum has received the following donations during the months of mid-January through April. We sincerely appreciate these recent donations.

Jennifer Chamberlain - Coal burning stove

Virginia Caranci - Photographs of Jacoe's Grocery Store and Jacoe's Pool Hall

Philip D. Reynolds - Milk token

Welcome Miller - Photos of Welcome Henning Miller and Blossom Henning Wennber in 1927

Paula Enrietto - Lace cap

Walter G. Oehlkers - Medicine bottle and cardboard box addressed to E. Jacoe

Dave Ferguson - Hard hat from Centennial Valley Mall and Boulder Pow Wow flag

Donald Ross - Photograph of a theater group in the Rex Theater

Memorial Donations in Memory of Josephine Milano

MUSEUM WISH LIST

We wish to extend a special thank you to **Historical Society Members, Don Ross, Virginia Caranci, Welcome Miller, and Dave Ferguson** who recently donated to the museum. Their donations are wonderful additions to the museum's collection. If you would be willing to donate any of the items listed below, please call 303-665-9048. All donations to the museum, a non-profit institution, are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

Louisville High School Yearbooks (Cargos):

1954, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, & 1972

Photographs of Louisville High School's graduating classes:

1939, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, and 1964 through 1971

THANK YOU TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS!

Renewing Members

Marjorie Nell Pickett
Dominic & Rita Ferrera
Frank & Mary Patete
Louise M. Buffo
Palmena DiCarlo
David & Eileen Reynolds
Maribeth G. Bosko
Chuck Sisk & Terre Rushton

New Members

Larry Dorsey
Wallace & Donna Hauswald

The above names consist of recent memberships and renewals in the Louisville Historical Society during the months of January through April. We apologize for any omissions or misspellings. Please contact the museum with corrections to the above list of names.

Louisville Historical Museum

1001 Main Street
Louisville, Colorado
303-665-9048
museum@ci.louisville.co.us
www.ci.louisville.co.us/museum.htm

Hours:
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays
&
the first Saturday of every month
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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